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FROM:	[ ]	REPORT NO: WEL-20555 LOCAL FILE NO:
NUMBER		NUMBER OF
OF PAGES:	3	ENCLOSURES:
REPORT		REPORT
MADE BY:	[ ]	APPROVED BY: [ ]
DISTRIBUTION BY COPY TO:		ORALLY TO:

Washington (1)

Registry

Originati[ ] Section 1

SOURCE CRYPTONYM [ ]   REFERENCES: WEL-20549, WEL-20322

Source Operational Data and Comments:

98

P/897.
5.6.52.

Wₓₗ-26555
9 June 52
2.962

EGYPT

Recent Activities of the ex-Mufti.

The attached report states that the ex-Mufti, whose popularity in Cairo has suffered a sensible decline, is trying to build up his contacts with the North African exiles, and is maintaining what a high official of the Arab League described to our source as "his vested interest in preventing the refugee issue being settled". Details of a squabble, during the Karachi congress, between the ex-Mufti and Said Ramadan of the Ikhwan, are also given in this report, which comes from [ ].

It will be noted that this report provides some WₒJ.26549 confirmation of the information contained in our P/898 of the 30th May. Bashir Bey's hostility towards the Arab League was previously reported in our P/862 of the 23rd May, which was also from [ ].   WₒJ.26322

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EGYPT

Political/Counter-Espionage

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT OF HAJ AMIN AL HUSSAINI,

EX-MUFTI OF PALESTINE

1.   In recent months, Haj AMIN al-Husayni [al-Husayni], the ex-Mufti, has come to realise that his presence in EGYPT is no longer as welcome as hitherto. The Palace authorities have ceased to look upon him with sympathy; he is avoided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Arab League. He is, therefore, "lying low" but continues to accept all invitations to attend functions.

2.   At every meeting he attends, the ex-Mufti is careful to assure those to whom he speaks that his only desire is to serve the Moslem cause throughout the world, and that he has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any country.

~~Meeting in Honour of the Indonesian Prime Minister~~

~~At IKHWAN AL-MUSLIMIN H.Q.~~

3.   Haj AMIN AL-HUSSAINI [al-Husayni] was present at the reception held recently at IKHWAN AL-MUSLIMIN [the headquarters of the Moslem Brotherhood] H.Q. in honour of the Indonesian Prime Minister during the latter's visit to EGYPT.

      During the reception the ex-Mufti met and talked with Abd-al-RAHMAN AZZAM (Pasha) [Abd al-] Secretary-General of the Arab League; Allal al-FASI [Allal al-Fasi], leader of the Istiqlal Party of MOROCCO; and SALIH HARB Pasha, President of the Young Men's Moslem Association (YMMA), but made no speech himself.

4.   HASSAN ISMAIL AL-HUDAIBI Bey, Supreme Guide of the IKHWAN AL-MUSLIMIN, spoke of the need for unity of the Moslem world in order to remove the evils of poverty and ignorance. He was, however, at pains to make it plain that he did not advocate the supercession of the Arab League.

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5. X   The ex-Mufti also attended other receptions in honor
of the Indonesian Prime Minister, and it is considered that he
is probably paving the way for a visit to INDONESIA.

The Ex-Mufti's Contacts with North African Leaders

6. X   In company with Emil GHURI, RUSLAN ABD AL-SAUDI, ABDULLAH
al-TAL and other members of the Arab Higher Executive, the ex-Mufti
called on Amir ABDUL KARIM when the latter was recently seriously
ill.

    X   Hajj AMIN al-HUSAINI also makes a point of keeping in
touch with other North African leaders, particularly ALLAL al-FASI,
leader of the Istiqlal Party, and AL MAKI SHIZLI, Tunisian
member of the MAGHRIB Committee in CAIRO.

         He has no contact with BASHIR al-SADAWI, exiled leader
of the Libyan National Congress Party, because of an outspoken criti-
cism directed by the latter against himself personally the Arab League
in general, and AZZAM Pasha in particular.

The Ex-Mufti's Relations with SAID RAMADAN, the
IKHWAN and the Y.M.M.A.

7. X   During the Islamic Congress in KARACHI which the ex-
Mufti attended, he quarrelled with SAID RAMADAN, IKHWAN Delegate
from CAIRO, who had acted as Secretary when Hajj AMIN al-HUSAINI
was himself President.

         Hajj AMIN accused SAID RAMADAN of embezzling a large sum
of money which had been subscribed in PAKISTAN for the benefit of
the IKHWAN cause in EGYPT, and so informed the IKHWAN Guidance
Office. For this reason the delegates who will represent the IKHWAN
at the next Moslem Congress in KARACHI will be SALIH ASHMAWI (member of the Ikhwan
Guidance Office)
and Abd-al-ABDUL AZIZ KAMAL, and not SAID RAMADAN.

8. X   Sheikh HILMI al-SHIRBASI, a teacher at the al-AZHAR and
senior member of the IKHWAN al-MUSLIMIN, who recently resigned from
the IKHWAN, was assisted in rejoining the Y.M.M.A. through the

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personal intervention of ~~Haj AMIN~~ the ex-Mufti with ~~SALEH HANB~~ Pasha, the President of the K.M.M.A. Furthermore, ~~SALEH HANB~~ was persuaded by the ex-Mufti to appoint ABED AL SHEMBADAT to represent the K.M.M.A. at the next Moslem Congress in KARACHI.

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9. ~~IX~~   In a recent discussion on the ~~running sore of the~~ problem of the Palestine Arab refugees, ~~Haj AMIN~~ the ex-Mufti stated that he and the Arab Higher ~~Committee~~ would actively work against any permanent settlement between ISRAEL and the Arab States until the question of compensation and repatriation of these refugees had been satisfactorily settled. Provided compensation was forthcoming from ISRAEL, the ex-Mufti said he would agree to those refugees who wished to do so and who were acceptable to the States concerned, remaining in SYRIA, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, and ~~the~~ LEBANON.

14.   Commenting on this statement, a high official in the Arab League gave vent to the following illuminating sarcasms:

"Certainly Haj AMIN and his gang have a vested interest in
preventing the case of these unfortunates from being settled,
for as long as this continues it affords them an excuse to
exploit the various Arab and Islamic nations and swindle
money out of them."